GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4599
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
MPLADS
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to CAG report and Times of India editorial dated June 28, 2000 on MPLADS highlighting many irregularities;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether detailed guidelines have been issued for guidance to the MPs with the help of CAG in view of post Gujarat-Quake realities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether MPLADS is likely to be restricted to bonafide public use for improving employment and quality of life of the needy poor and not for affluent colonies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE [INDEPENDENT CHARGE] OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a & b) Yes Sir. On receipt of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the period ending March`1997, all the State Governments were advised to take corrective/remedial measures in respect of the irregularities pointed out in the report. All Members of Parliament have also been requested to ensure proper observance of the Guidelines in recommending works.

(c & d) Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme are changed from time to time so as to ensure proper implementation of the MPLADS Scheme. Amendment was made in the Guidelines so as to authorise the Members of Parliament to recommend works outside their Constituencies/States for construction of assets that are permissible in the Guidelines for rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamity of rare severity in any part of the Country for an amount not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for each calamity. In case of Gujarat, a relaxation has been issued enabling MPs to contribute whatever amount they desire upto their unspent balance for the year from their MPLADS funds for reconstruction work in the earthquake affected areas of that State.

(e) In accordance with the Guidelines, the MPs have to recommend works to the concerned District Heads for taking up works which are developmental in nature based on locally felt needs. The Heads of District get them implemented by following the established procedure as laid down by the State Government subject to the Guidelines.